

10 JUN 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable John N. Mitchell  
The Attorney General

SUBJECT : Trace Metal Detection Technique

1. Some time ago we developed a means to help identify insurgents in Vietnam. Through this Trace Metal Detection technique it is possible to determine whether an individual has held a metal object within the preceding thirty-six to forty-eight hours. The specific metal involved and the type object held may also be identified. The materials used are an inexpensive liquid solution and a portable ultraviolet light.

2. Recognizing its potential usefulness in law enforcement in this country, Agency security officers have demonstrated the technique to representatives of Federal departments and agencies having law enforcement responsibilities. Dissemination to all public law enforcement officials in the United States now appears appropriate. As I understand its statutory role, the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration is the proper organization to accomplish this action. If you agree, Mr. Howard J. Osborn, our Director of Security, will work to that end with Mr. Louis A. Mayo or any other officer you may wish to designate.

/s/ Richard Helms

Richard Helms  
Director

D/S:HO (10 June 70)

Reviser: ADD/S (17 June 70)

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## Remarks:

The Director feels that the memorandum to the Attorney General is a little sterile. He requests that [redacted] who "liaises" regularly with the Attorney General, handcarry this. Please ensure that [redacted] knows all of the background on the trace metal detection technique so that he can give the Attorney General a good oral briefing on the whole business.

LKW

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